

**Senate File 354 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 354

BY COURNOYER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requesting the establishment of an interim study  
2 committee to consider school district and accredited  
3 nonpublic school use of online learning technology as a  
4 means to meet minimum school day or school hour requirements  
5 when inclement weather causes schools to close.  
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE — ONLINE LEARNING  
2 TECHNOLOGY — INCLEMENT WEATHER SCHOOL CLOSURES.

3 1. The legislative council is requested to establish an  
4 interim study committee to consider and make recommendations  
5 relating to the feasibility of allowing school districts  
6 and accredited nonpublic schools to utilize online learning  
7 technology as a means to meet the minimum school day or  
8 school hour requirements when inclement weather causes school  
9 closures.

10 2. The study committee shall review and provide an analysis  
11 of the following:

12 a. School districts or accredited nonpublic schools in  
13 Iowa currently using online learning technology to provide  
14 instruction on days when inclement weather causes school  
15 closures.

16 b. Statewide policies and laws in other states relating  
17 to the use of online learning technology as a means to meet  
18 minimum school day or school hour requirements when inclement  
19 weather causes school closures.

20 c. Potential barriers to allowing instructional staff and  
21 students to engage in curriculum-aligned instructional and  
22 learning opportunities from home utilizing online learning  
23 technology and to allowing such use to meet the minimum  
24 school day or school hour requirements so school districts and  
25 accredited nonpublic schools can avoid extending the school  
26 calendar.

27 d. Options for overcoming the barriers identified under  
28 paragraph "c".

29 e. Best practices for utilizing online instructional  
30 technology to meet minimum school day or school hour  
31 requirements when inclement weather causes school closures.

32 3. The study committee shall submit a report with its  
33 analysis, findings, and recommendations to the general assembly  
34 by December 20, 2019.

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EXPLANATION

1           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
2           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3       This bill requests the legislative council to establish an  
4 interim study committee to consider and make recommendations  
5 relating to the feasibility of allowing school districts  
6 and accredited nonpublic schools to utilize online learning  
7 technology as a means to meet the minimum school day or  
8 school hour requirements when inclement weather causes school  
9 closures.

10      The study committee shall review and provide an analysis of  
11 how school districts or accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa  
12 are currently using such technology to provide instruction on  
13 days when inclement weather causes school closures; related  
14 policies and laws in other states; potential barriers to such  
15 use and the options for overcoming such barriers, and best  
16 practices for utilizing online instructional technology to meet  
17 minimum school day or school hour requirements when inclement  
18 weather causes school closures.

19      The study committee shall submit a report with its analysis,  
20 findings, and recommendations to the general assembly by  
21 December 20, 2019.